

Guerrillas, Troops Battle in Jordan

From News Dispatches

AMMAN, Sept. 9—Gun battles between Jordanian troops and guerrillas raged through Amman for more than three hours this afternoon, with almost continuous shelling and machine-gun fire reported to be taking a heavy toll in casualties.

Shells rocketed through Jebel Amman, the hilltop suburb where some of the women and children released from the hijacked Western airliners huddled for safety in the basement of the Intercontinental Hotel.

Amman Radio broadcast orders by the Jordanian chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Mashhour Haditha, and guerrilla chief Yasser Arafat for both sides to stop firing immediately.

[In Baghdad, the Palestinian guerrilla leadership appealed to all Arab heads of state to intervene and put an end to the fighting in Jordan before "untold destruction engulfs the entire country." The official Iraqi News Agency said a copy of an urgent message from the central committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization to Iraqi President Ahmed Hassan al Bakr warned that a conspiracy was being carried out in Jordan to liquidate the guerrillas.]

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JORDAN, From A1

King Hussein, facing the country's gravest crisis since the 1967 June war, entrusted full military powers to Haditha, the only military leader trusted by the commandos, after an emergency cabinet meeting.

Haditha and Prime Minister Abdul Moneim Rifai went from the cabinet to discuss with the king the wave of clashes in the Irbid area and the north Jordan Valley which led the guerrillas to renounce a short-lived peace pact signed yesterday. A previous cease-fire last Saturday also broke down with a renewal of fighting.

The chief of staff ordered an immediate cease-fire at 4:30 p.m., threatening that anyone who disobeyed "will be pun-

ished with the severest military measures."

This and other statements suggested that some troops were attacking guerrillas on their own initiative.

Yasser Arafat, leader of Al Fatah, responded to Haditha's order with an order telling "all commandos and militia to stop firing immediately." Arafat's order was broadcast on both the guerrilla radio and Amman Radio.

The fighting died down at about 6:45 p.m.

Fatah reported that the firing in the capital had come from the area of the royal palace, Qalaa (the Citadel) and the U.S. embassy.

Army Troops shelled and machine-gunned guerrilla offices in the northern town of Irbid, where 30 guerrillas were reported killed yesterday.

In the northern Jordan Valley area, Fatah said tanks and field guns shelled Guerrilla positions.

A government spokesman said army officers responsible for the attacks on guerrilla

bases in Irbid would be punished.

Today's investiture of full military powers in Haditha apparently pleased guerrillas. Arafat's statement ordering a cease-fire paid tribute to Haditha's "swift action to bring bloodshed to an immediate end."

Exploded in Afternoon

After sporadic clashes in some parts of the capital and around the city, today's fighting exploded at about 3:15 p.m.

During the fighting power supplies were cut in several parts of the capital and on Jebel Amman, but were later restored.

The Intercontinental Hotel—where about 200 foreign guests including many of the 127 freed hijack passengers were sheltering in the basement—was plunged into darkness but was not hit.

Casualties in the current fighting, the fourth such crisis since November 1968, have steadily mounted since the reported Sept. 1 attempt to assassinate Hussein, and are now believed to number about 400.

Observers here held out lit-

tle hope for the success of the Arab mediation committee now in Amman unless there is a rapid easing of tension.

The committee, appointed by the Arab League and consisting of Egyptian, Algerian and Sudanese representatives, had separate meetings yesterday with government and commando officials, but played no part in the negotiations leading to yesterday's short-lived agreement.